A. Amendments to the Claims

1. through 15. Canceled

16. (currently amended) An extender for the leg of a ladder, comprising:

a first channel shaped and dimensioned to receive the leg of the ladder;

a second channel shaped and dimensioned to receive said first channel;

a first member pivotally connecting said first channel to said second channel;

a second member pivotally connecting said first channel to said second channel;

wherein said second channel may be selectively moved from a stowed position wherein said leg is received by said first channel and said first channel is received by said second channel, to an extended position wherein said second channel outwardly projects from said first channel and resides in substantially co-linear relationship with said first member;

a lock selectively connectable between said first channel and said second channel to retain said second channel in said extended position; and,

[An extender according to Claim 15, further including:]

said lock including a locking strap having a hooked end, said locking strap pivotally connected to said second channel, wherein said locking strap may be selectively attached to said first channel.

17. Canceled

18. (currently amended) An extender for the leg of a ladder, comprising:

a first channel shaped and dimensioned to receive the leg of the ladder;

a second channel shaped and dimensioned to receive said first channel;

a first member pivotally connecting said first channel to said second channel;

a second member pivotally connecting said first channel to said second channel;

wherein said second channel may be selectively moved from a stowed position wherein said leg is received by said first channel and said first channel is received by said second channel,

to an extended position wherein said second channel outwardly projects from said first channel and resides in substantially co-linear relationship with said first member;

a retainer for fixedly attaching said extender to a desired position along the leg of the ladder;

[An extender according to Claim 17, further including:]

said retainer including:

-said first channel having two sides, each said side having an open rod;

-an insert selectively connectable between said two open rods;

-a screw threadably connected to said insert; and,

-so that said insert engages said two rods and said screw may be turned to engage the leg of the ladder and thereby fixedly hold said first channel in place on the leg of the ladder.

19. (original) An extender according to Claim 18, further including:

said first channel including two pairs of said open rods wherein said insert may be connected between either said pair.

20. (currently amended) An extender for the leg of a ladder, comprising:

a first channel shaped and dimensioned to receive the leg of the ladder;

a second channel shaped and dimensioned to receive said first channel;

a first member pivotally connecting said first channel to said second channel;

a second member pivotally connecting said first channel to said second channel;

wherein said second channel may be selectively moved from a stowed position wherein said leg is received by said first channel and said first channel is received by said second channel, to an extended position wherein said second channel outwardly projects from said first channel and resides in substantially co-linear relationship with said first member;

[An extender according to Claim 13, further including:]

said first member connected to said first channel at a first pivot axis P1;

said second member connected to said first channel at a second pivot axis P2;

said first member connected to said second channel at a third pivot axis P3;

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said second member connected to said second channel at a fourth pivot axis P4;

a distance from P1 to P2 being L1;

a distance from P2 to P4 being L2;

a distance from P4 to P3 being L3;

a distance from P3 to P1 being L4; and,

wherein a ratio of L1 to L2 is about 1.2, and a ratio of L1 to L3 is about 1.1, and a ratio of L1 to L4 is about 1.4.

21. through 25. Canceled